

Westmont Neighborhood
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5671

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WESTMONT NEIGHBORHOOD

HABS No. PA-5671

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WESTMONT

The Desirable Resident Part of Johnstown

A few minutes' ride, costing less than a cent, carries the resident of WESTMONT far above the noise, smoke, and dust of the city into the pure country air and bright sunshine of that charming suburb. When he makes his descent into the thick, smoky fog of the valley his family is left in enjoyment of the morning sunshine, which will not reach the less fortunate town people for an hour or more. . . . No long rides, no five-cent fares, no wading through mud to reach your house, no ill-smelling sewer or river to poison the air you breathe, no distracting noises to disturb your sleep. In summer, birds and grass and flowers on every side; in winter, less fog and slush and slop than in the city--no street filth to wade through and track into the house; and two or three hours more daylight. Some people have been enjoying these advantages for years; ask them about them.

*For Further Particulars Inquire Of
F. M. Buchanan,-- --Superintendent¹*

As advertised, Westmont, situated on a plateau 570 feet above the city of Johnstown, became a serene residential community isolated from the unpleasantness of the industrial city below. Yet, it was the activity of industry and the labor of those who lived amid the accompanying pollution and congestion that made the serenity and isolation of Westmont possible. The director of all this activity, the Cambria Iron Company, orchestrated the development of the hilltop community.

The Westmont site was purchased by John Yoder of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, in 1793. The tract was afterwards referred to as "Yoder Hill." John Miller acquired four hundred twenty-four acres of his vast parcel for \$1,200 in 1817. After changing hands several more times, the land was purchased by the Cambria Iron Company as farm and pasture land for the horses and mules used in its mills and mines.²

¹ Advertisement in Catalogue of George Wild, Architect, Johnstown, Pa., Including a History of Johnstown (1898).

² Nathan Daniel Shappee, "A History of Johnstown and the Great Flood of 1889: A Study of Disaster and Rehabilitation" (Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1940), 22. Richard A. Burkert and Eileen Mountjoy Cooper, Uphill All the Way: Johnstown and Its Inclined Plane (Johnstown, 1985), 5.

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In 1885 the company sold 100 acres on Yoder Hill to the Citizens' Cemetery Association for \$75 per acre. The sale was typical of the company's paternalistic role. General Manager Daniel Morrell took a special interest in planning the ambitious Grandview Cemetery. He ordered John Fulton, Company mining engineer, to survey and build a road up the difficult terrain from Johnstown to the hilltop. In all likelihood, he recommended that the association commission Charles Miller of Miller and Yates, Philadelphia-based landscape architects. Miller had designed the 1876 Centennial Exposition grounds in Philadelphia. As a U. S. representative and chairman of the committee on manufactures in 1870, Morrell introduced the motion to host the Centennial and was head of its executive committee. Morrell's wife and that of another prominent company man, James McMillen, each contributed \$3,000 to the Cemetery Association for the construction of a chapel and stone gateway.³

After the 1889 flood, Cambria Iron realized another chance to act as benevolent caretaker. It purchased the adjacent Mulvehill farmland for \$20,178.75 and hired Miller and Yates to design a model suburb. On July 25, 1889, the Johnstown Tribune announced plans for a "new town on Yoder Hill." The company proposed to call the town "Tip-Top," the paper reported, and it had acquired the 500 or 600 acres in the tract "with a view of furnishing cheap and convenient building sites for homes for their employees and others." Including the \$24,917.25 paid earlier for company farmland, the total expenditure for land was \$45,150. By 1912, the cost of "improvements" to the site amounted to approximately \$207,933, so, by that year Westmont had cost the company \$253,082.52. Net sales of \$389,469.88 resulted in a generous profit of \$136,387.36.⁴

Miller implemented a rough grid plan, bisecting each block with a 20'-wide longitudinal alley. Lots generally measured 50' x 150'. Luzerne Street was 80' wide, while all other streets had a width of 60'. Edgehill Drive received the most descriptive name; the perpendicular streets to Edgehill were named after Pennsylvania counties; the streets parallel to Edgehill were named numerically and called "avenues." Later, the numerical avenues were renamed after colleges.

At the time of the company's purchases, the area was sparsely populated by small farms. Examples of original farmhouses may still exist, but they could not be positively identified: the dwelling at 120 Blair St. and the double house at 44-46 Bucknell Ave. are likely candidates (figs. 5.38 and 5.39). These two houses were the only ones shown in the area south of Luzerne Street on the 1892 map of Westmont, and general appearance indicates they might pre-date 1889.

³ Shappee, 22, 67, 133-34. Fulton, Autobiography, IV:8.

⁴ Shappee, 586-88. "New Town on Yoder Hill," Johnstown Tribune, 25 July 1889. "Statement of Westmont Real Estate From Beginning of Operations to November 30, 1912," "Cambria Steel Co., Westmont (General) 1911-1912," box: Westmont Borough, Cambria Steel, Acc 1699, BSC, Hagley Museum, Wilmington, De.

The pastoral quality of Yoder Hill attracted city residents for picnics and horse racing. What is now the broad, tree-lined Luzerne Street was formerly the vertical axis of a late nineteenth-century horse-racing track that covered the area presently encompassed by Tioga and Wayne streets and Dartmouth and Hood avenues. The Johnstown Driving Park was founded in 1893, at a meeting at Master's Livery Stable in Johnstown with a capital stock of \$25,000. H.Y. Haws, owner of the city's brickyard, served as president, with other prominent citizens serving as officers and on the board of directors.⁵

The twenty-eight acres that comprised the racetrack area were rented from the Cambria Iron Company at a nominal sum for ten years. The racetrack, which opened in 1893, was one-half mile long and 60' wide, and was enclosed by a wooden railing. The horses were housed in fifty first-quality stables. A separate building included the secretary's office, a private dining room, and a public dining room measuring 20' by 60'.⁶ A day at the races was a festive occasion. To avert boredom between heats, a variety of entertainments such as hot-air balloon launchings, chariot racing and parachute jumping added to the excitement.⁷

The racetrack parcel was divided and sold as homesites by 1907, but picnicking in Westmont remained popular for decades. The 1911-12 city directory lists under parks the "Pic-Nic Grounds at Westmont." In 1918 a group of Cambria City families formed the "Land-grabbers Club" and pooled their money to purchase a Westmont site where they could enjoy picnics in the countryside.⁸

The area also attracted more formal and better-financed recreational organizations. In addition to the racetrack, there was the Westmont Tennis Club, sponsored by the Cambria Steel Company, and the Johnstown Country Club, which originated in 1895 when a small golf course was laid out by Westmont residents. In 1903, 120 acres were donated by Cambria Steel for completion of a nine-hole course. Four years later the course was forfeited to further residential development, and a replacement course was constructed south of the old one. The company appointed the majority of the Club's board of directors, maintained the links and grounds, and constructed a rustic "mission-style" clubhouse finished in fieldstone and shingles. According to a 1912 Iron Trade Review article, this patronage was undertaken "to afford the young men of

⁵ "Early Athletic Field, Race Track at Westmont," Johnstown Tribune-Democrat November 21, 1953, p. 23. "Johnstown Driving Park Association," Johnstown Daily Democrat, 1894 souvenir issue, JPL.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Interview with an elderly lady whose father was a member of the club, and who remembers the Westmont picnics.

Johnstown, especially those employed in the Cambria works, an opportunity for outdoor sports and other amusements."⁹

As the residential core of old Westmont continued to expand, these recreational areas on the periphery were absorbed or shifted elsewhere. The clubhouse of the Johnstown Country Club, located along Menoher Boulevard on the Southmont-Westmont border and now known as "Ye Olde Country Club," is still in use, but its grounds are small. It was superseded by the Sunnehanna Country Club built in the 1920s west of old Westmont, but now within the borough's borders. The Sunnehanna Clubhouse was designed by Westmont architect Henry Rogers.¹⁰

Charles Miller's design for Westmont, and Cambria Steel Company's execution of it, preserved the area's rural, pastoral, and wooded atmosphere. Miller employed a simple grid pattern for the streets, but the Cambria Steel Company lined them with a variety of trees of which the "Elm Grove" along Luzerne Street is the best-known example. Correspondence with nurseries in eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey and the state department of agriculture reflects the care taken by the company in selecting and maintaining the trees. Dudley T. Corning, head of Cambria Steel's mining department, consulted with specialists about a caterpillar that was defoliating the elm trees and, at one point, asked whether it would be advisable to use coal tar direct from company coke ovens "for painting the wounds of trees."¹¹

Miller's concessions to Yoder Hill topography included Edgehill Drive, which follows the contours of the plateau's edge and provides a spectacular view of the valley below. This area became the site of Charles S. Price's prestigious home at 510 Edgehill Dr. and several other imposing homes occupied by company executives (figs. 5.3, 5.45, and 5.46). Miller also designed the streets to go around the two mounds near Edgehill, not slating them as homesites. Instead, the hill at the head of Luzerne Street was reserved for a reservoir and park; the hill two blocks north along Edgehill Drive was planned as the site of a resort hotel that would overlook the city of Johnstown. The hotel was never built and the area now includes tennis courts, ballfields, and a playground. The hill is known locally as "the Mound," reputedly an Indian burial site, but historical sources do not support this lore.¹²

⁹"Helping the Workingmen to Help Themselves." The Iron Trade Review (6 June 1912): 1218-19. See photograph of the Clubhouse in Souvenir Seventeenth Annual Convention, League of Cities of the Third Class, August 29-31, 1916, Johnstown, Pa., p. 43, JPL.

¹⁰Walter R. Myton--Biographical Information and List of Known Works," typescript, n.d. JFM.

¹¹ "Cambria County Historic Sites Survey, Johnstown Inventory," Redevelopment Authority of Cambria County, 1977, Card No. 121-WB-062. "Westmont Borough Parks and Plantings, 1909-1915" file, box: Cambria Steel Acc. 1699, BSC, Hagley Museum, Wilmington, Del.

¹² Fulton, Map Showing Westmont, . . . , 1892. Shappee, 17-20, dispels the myths about Johnstown's Indian past. For an early plan of Westmont similar to, but not identical to the one actually executed, see Miller and Yates' plan of Westmont Borough, JFM.

The hotel site was planned for the top of the inclined railway leading up from Johnstown (fig. 5.2). Easy access to the hilltop suburb was the single-most influential reason for its rapid growth. At best the hillside roads were steep and energy-consuming. In winter months and muddy weather they were often impassable. Building lots could be promoted, but without access to the city and the mills there would be few prospective buyers. In fact, the sale of lots was slow until the Cambria Steel Company completed the incline railway in June 1891. Two counter-balanced cars, accommodating pedestrians and wagons and teams, made the trip up or down the hill every five minutes, and by August 1891 they carried an average of 1,300 passengers each day.¹³

The transition from rural area to model suburban community was speeded by the incline, but the company had instituted ordinances and restrictions to control development. Deeds from Cambria Iron to each homeowner contained clauses barring the operation of tanneries, distilleries, public houses and any business deemed to cause a public nuisance. The Johnstown Tribune reported that the company would prohibit the sale of liquor in the borough "as it is proposed to make this a place of homes." The borough's ordinances were intended to sanitize the sights, smells, and sounds of the neighborhood. There were restrictions on storing building material on the streets and on the small-scale animal husbandry practiced by late-nineteenth-century suburbanites: "Any person who shall willingly suffer his cow, horse, mare, gelding, mule, hog, or goat to run at large within the Borough" was subject to a fine or impoundment of the animal.¹⁴

According to local oral history, Westmont was divided into two sub-neighborhoods based on social status and income. The more affluent southern section was referred to as the "dinner side," while the northern area bordering Brownstown was called the "supper side."¹⁵ Cambria Iron Company was also responsible for this division, for it constructed a number of identical, modest double and single houses in the northern section to rent to company miners and millhands. Yet, perhaps to compensate for this concentration of company housing, Cambria was also careful to build modest and mid-range houses scattered around the borough, both for rent and for immediate sale. Some of these were advertised as five- and six-room houses "much more attractive than any ever before built by the company. They will all have nice porches in front, gables shingled, and finishings generally in the Queen Anne style." They would be sold "on easy payments," the Johnstown Tribune reported:

¹³ Burkert and Cooper, 6-11. The 1889 Johnstown city directory, p. 39, described Kernville Hill as "the hill to the West of the 5th and 6th Wards. Grandview cemetery is at the top of this hill. Most of the wood land and farming land of that vicinity belong to the Cambria Iron Co."

¹⁴ An Ordinance for the Government of the Borough of Westmont (Johnstown: G. Swank, 1893), 22, JFL. "New Town on Yoder Hill," Johnstown Tribune July 25, 1889.

¹⁵ Burkert and Cooper, 11.

thus affording people in ordinary circumstances an opportunity to obtain their own home. It is certainly a very creditable move on the part of the company, and no doubt many a poor man in days to come, when he has his little home paid for, will bless the officers of the corporation who planned the scheme by which he was enabled to secure it.¹⁶

In 1892 the newspaper announced another "opportunity for people of limited means to secure a home" in Westmont. The company had established a fund from which they would build and finance homes for people who paid for their own lots.¹⁷

Although the buildings in Westmont seem diverse in size, style, and the residents they housed, in fact they are quite similar. First, they are nearly all houses: of the 563 buildings surveyed, 553 were residential. Second, nearly half the houses were built over a fourteen-year period: 270 were constructed between 1889 and 1913. Of the 503 houses built before 1949, the sizes are similar: 392 are single-family and 340 are two-and-a-half stories (an additional seventy-three are two stories). Finally, the materials of construction are similar: 389 of the pre-1949 houses are wood frame, although only 241 of them were clad with wood.

The "planning" of Westmont went beyond the layout of streets and planting of shrubbery. Relatively modest and affordable houses for people in a lower-middle income range were spaced around the borough to compensate for the presence of uniform company housing along streets such as Lehigh and Wyoming and, in turn, they were used to temper the imposing architect-designed homes in the main southern area. Despite these efforts to make Westmont's physical and social presentation conform to the vision of a one-class community, residents were still conscious of the "dinner/supper" divisions.

Company-built Houses

Between the years 1891 and 1911 Cambria Iron Company erected thirty-one tenement houses in Westmont for their laborers and mill workers as well as for some of their middle-management employees. The cost of building these houses was \$62,082, and the rents received from these properties by November 31, 1912, was \$68,385. Improvements amounted to \$3,550 and taxes, repairs, water rents, etc., totaled \$37,213. Although the cost of construction and maintenance of tenement housing exceeded the company's profits by around

¹⁶ "Houses in Westmont," Johnstown Tribune October 4, 1890, p. 1. The article reported that a contract for twenty-five houses had been awarded to Hoover, Hughes & Co.

¹⁷ "Prosperity of Westmont," Johnstown Tribune May 23, 1892.

\$34,461, it was able to compensate for the loss by selling off lots to private individuals.¹⁸

Company housing in Westmont can be separated into three different periods of development: (1) single- and two-family housing for laborers and mill workers on Wyoming and Lehigh streets, ca. 1891; (2) single-family houses for middle-management employees on Tioga Street, ca. 1901; and (3) single-family houses for middle-management employees on Third (now Colgate) Avenue and Tioga streets, ca. 1909 and 1911.

In the 1890s Cambria Iron Company owned about 800 rental properties in the Johnstown area that had been constructed to house employees.¹⁹ Reasonable rents, in most cases, were automatically deducted from a worker's paycheck automatically, and utilities were usually included as part of the rental payment. Cambria Iron provided inexpensive, well-constructed housing for their workers in order to secure their labor force. According to a 1917 article, "Employers' Housing in the United States," the results of providing housing for workers had some very positive advantages for the employers:

- (1) Secures a better class of workmen, (2) greater stability in the supply of labor, (3) reduction in the number of floaters, (4) better living conditions, (5) greater loyalty from employees, (6) more contented and (7) more efficient workmen, (8) better control of the labor situation (that is, hire and discharge with greater freedom), (9) attracts married men, (10) greater regularity of employment, (11) a better house for less money for the workman, (12) brings profit to the company, (13) facilitates part time, and (14) serves to advertise the company and to keep it favorably before the public.²⁰

Cambria Iron reportedly had an excellent maintenance record for their tenement housing.²¹ In exchange for housing, the employee was required to remain with the company and to obey its rules for the regulation of tenants. This meant the company retained quality control over its work force, and that strict regulations were imposed upon the tenants to assure they kept the property clean and tidy. Frequent, unannounced visits were made by the superintendent of lands and dwellings, for instance, inspecting the condition in which the houses were being maintained.

¹⁸Westmont Borough (General 1911-12). box: Cambria Steel, Acc. 1699, BSC, Hagley Museum, Wilmington, Del.

¹⁹Morawska, Ewa. For Bread With Butter: Life-Worlds of East Central Europeans in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, 1890-1940 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 89.

²⁰Magnusson, Leifur. "Employers' Housing in the United States." Monthly Review of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington D.C., 1917.

²¹"Helping the Workingmen to Help Themselves." The Iron Trade Review (6 June 1912): 1215.

The first company houses the Cambria Iron Company built in Westmont were on Wyoming and Lehigh streets. A total of seventeen buildings (single and double houses) were erected along the two streets, which parallel each other with a large alley in between. The outline of each house appears on the 1892 map of Westmont Borough on a specific numbered lot and block (fig. 5.4).²² Double houses were the most common form of company housing until around 1881;²³ Cambria Iron constructed only single-family houses after 1891.

Ten of these houses were single-family residences (Nos. 18, 30, 42, 54, 120, 132, 144 Wyoming St. [figs. 5.5, 5.72, and 5.73] and Nos. 23, 42, 59 Lehigh St. [figs. 5.6 and 5.55]). Company records state that the cost of erecting each house was about \$956 or a total of about \$9,556.²⁴ Tall and narrow in proportion, the 16' by 42' houses were front-gabled, two-story, two-bay frame structures containing four rooms. Some now have front porches and rear additions. Originally they had no indoor plumbing. The company made extensive modifications to the houses in 1911,²⁵ including the installation of hot-water heating systems, cold pantries, electric lighting, wash stands, and stationary tubs. The front-gable roof space of the houses were also expanded to accommodate a front porch. The most common additions to the houses were bathrooms and kitchens.

Seven frame double houses were built by the company on Wyoming Street in July 1891, at a total cost of \$11,076, or \$1,582 each.²⁶ These were two-story dwellings measuring 29'-2" by 23'-6" with separate, rear one-story porches (Nos. 27-29, 39-42, 51-53, 117-119, 216-218, and 228-230 Wyoming St. [figs. 5.71 and 5.7]). Cambria Iron made similar improvements to these properties. Most of the rear porches were converted into kitchens with a second-floor room above.

According to tax records and the 1900 census, company houses were occupied by men working as laborers, coal miners, or mill hands. Nearly all occupants that have been identified were American-born. L. T. Reed, for example, a day laborer born in Pennsylvania in 1858, rented 18 Wyoming St. John Boyle was also a Pennsylvania-born day laborer, who lived at 59 Lehigh St. Next to Boyle John Locker rented 42 Lehigh St.; Locker was a coal miner born in Pennsylvania in 1865.²⁷

²²Fulton, John. Map Showing Westmont Borough, Cambria County, Pa., May 27, 1892, Egin Corporation, Civil Engineering, Johnstown, Pa.

²³Magnusson, 38.

²⁴Westmont Borough (General 1911-12), Hagley Museum.

²⁵Westmont Borough (General 1908, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1912), Hagley Museum.

²⁶Westmont Borough (General 1911-1912), Hagley Museum.

²⁷U. S. Census, 1900; Westmont Borough Tax Assessment records for 1895-1924.

No. 216-218 Wyoming St. is one house with an interesting history. Laborer John Wagner moved to 216 Wyoming St. in 1905. According to the 1903 Johnstown city directory, he had previously been living at 420 Third St. in East Conemaugh. Wagner rented the house from Cambria Iron until 1915 when William H. Wagner, probably a relative, purchased it. Tax records list William Wagner as a laborer. He and his wife, Jennie, lived in the house with John and his wife, Emma, and Park Wagner, another laborer. William became a fireman in 1918, but the rest of the men remained laborers. By 1923, John and Emma moved to 126 Clarion St. where they rented a single-family dwelling. Laborer H. P. Wagner and his wife, Mary, rented 216 Wyoming St. from William H. Wagner.²⁸

Groups of family members, all of whom worked for Cambria Iron and Cambria Steel, often shared company-provided tenements. At the turn of the century technological advances were creating more jobs that required fewer skills. A demand for unskilled laborers at the rapidly expanding steel companies led to informal hiring practices. The practice of employing family members was so common at Cambria Iron Company and other mills that they became known as the "fathers-and-sons" employers.²⁹

Tenement housing was in great demand in Johnstown after 1900. The number of workers in the iron and steel mills increased by nearly 100 percent between 1900 and 1914. This leap in population resulted in a housing shortage, and the waiting list for rental applicants grew long. By 1912, there were more than 228 applicants at all times. Rents ranged from \$7 to \$8 per month for each family in 1908.³⁰

The Company encouraged tenants to buy a home. Rents as low as 6 percent on the investment were offered as incentives.³¹ Other methods, such as mortgages, were available through the Westmont Land and Improvement Company, a subsidiary, or directly through Cambria Iron. Half the cost of the house secured a mortgage; the remainder of the price was due in one year, with interest charged on the balance owed. Not all buyers could pay off the balance within a year, and many expanded the length of their payments.

Among able buyers were James Woods, a machinist for Cambria Iron, who rented 18 Wyoming St. from 1910 to 1924, when he purchased the house and two lots for \$2,400 (fig. 5.5). A laborer, Ira L. Potter, purchased 132 Wyoming St. for \$2,400 in 1916, and he had rented his house since 1910 (fig. 5.72). Louis O. and Minnie Wise rented their house at 42 Lehigh St., in 1918 and later purchased it for \$2,000 in 1932 (fig. 5.6); Wise was also a machinist. The unskilled laborer probably was less likely than a skilled laborer to

²⁸ Johnstown City Directories, 1903, 1905, 1907-08, 1911-12, 1918; Westmont Borough Tax Assessment records, 1903-1924.

²⁹ Morawska, 90.

³⁰ The Iron Trade Review, 1216; Westmont Borough (General 1911-12), Hagley Museum.

³¹ The Iron Trade Review, 1215.

purchase his own home, because of his smaller earnings. The 1922 tax records list skilled laborers as having earned twice as much as laborers.³²

The next phase of company housing construction involved three dwellings on Tioga Street. Actually, records indicate that four houses were slated, though only three exist today--Nos. 126, 130, and 134 Tioga St. (fig. 5.8).³³ The average cost per house and lot was \$4,295, without lot \$3,095. Local contractors Kuntz and Alwine built the houses for about \$9,800, and plumbers, surveyors, brick masons, laborers and other specialists completed the construction.

The house designs were practically identical. Each is a spacious, two-and-one-half story, two-bay single-family dwelling sheathed with wood shingles. A gambrel roof rests on a large cornice with a two-story projecting window on the front facade. Box columns support a shed-roofed front porch with a small pediment over the entrance. The main block of the houses rest on a stone foundation. Both 126 and 130 Tioga St. now have enclosed front porches.

The names of their tenants are unknown, but it is clear by the meticulous manner in which these houses were constructed and the spaciousness of the interiors that they were intended to accommodate middle-management employees of the Cambria Steel Company. By 1921 Howard M. Ross, a Cambria Steel foreman, owned 134 Tioga St.³⁴ Tax records identify Ross as living on Montour Street from 1913 to 1920.

Four single-family houses (Nos. 238, 244 Tioga St. [figs. 5.67 and 5.9] and 409, 415 Colgate Ave.) were erected on the corner of Tioga Street and Third (Colgate) Avenue, ca. 1909-11 at a cost of approximately \$12,380. Each house had seven rooms, a toilet, bath, electric lights, gas, and a reception hall, and was heated by hot water. In 1912 the rent per month was \$20. Built for middle-management workers, the houses were eventually sold, in some cases to the tenants. Thomas S. and Winifred Reilly, for example, lived at 244 Tioga St. in 1911. Thomas S. Reilly was an estimating engineer, and he bought the home for \$4,600 in 1939; he and his wife had rented it for twenty-eight years.³⁵

The last tenement houses constructed by the Cambria Steel Company were four single-family residences on Third Avenue (Nos. 134, 140, 146, and 152 Colgate Ave.) in 1911 (figs. 5.10-5.13). On April 17, 1911, Dudley T. Corning, superintendent of the mining engineering department of Cambria Steel,

³²Tax Assessment records, Westmont Borough, 1909 to 1924, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

³³Westmont Borough (General 1908, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1912), Hagley Museum.

³⁴Deed Records, (489:71), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

³⁵The Iron Trade Review, 1216; Deed Records (490:493), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.; Johnstown city directory, 1911.

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wrote to Sears, Roebuck & Co., in Chicago requesting a set of plans, specifications, and bill of materials for houses No. 164 and No. 137 from their catalog, "Modern Homes." He further asked for the following information:

Please advise if you are in position to furnish a quotation together with bill of material of lumber, millwork, plumbing, fixtures, heating system, etc., upon a set of plans and general specification of a proposed dwelling? ³⁶

The estimated cost of building Sears Roebuck House No. 164 was \$4079.46, according to a memo of March 27, 1911. This included the addition of a cellar, plumbing, heating, lights, and yard grading and walks. The cost of adding wiring and switches, fixture, bell work, and lamps was \$136 for each house. But 1912 company records gave the total price of construction at \$14,303 or \$3,751 each. Probably some labor was absorbed by the company's contracts with other suppliers at a reduced rate. Even if there were some cost reduction, the quality of the structures did not suffer; all of the materials used were of the highest quality.³⁷

These Sears houses are spacious, two-and-a-half-story, single-family dwellings that measured 32'-6" by 22'-6". On the first floor there were four rooms--a hall, living room, dining room, and kitchen. The second floor contained three bedrooms, a bathroom, and a small den that led to an enclosed balcony. The attic, with a small bedroom and a lavatory but no toilet or bath, was probably intended for a live-in servant. The remainder of the attic was devoted to storage. All the wood-frame houses had front porches and were covered with horizontal wood, wood shingles, or a combination of both. There have been few exterior alterations over the years, but the interiors have been greatly remodeled.

In addition to greatly remodeled company houses built to rent to laborers and middle-management employees, some of the larger Westmont homes seem to have been intended for its executives (fig. 5.14). Other homeowners are linked to the company through marriage. Throughout deed records of the early larger houses, names of prominent Cambria Iron Company figures reappear. Charles S. Price, general manager of Cambria Iron Company from 1892 to 1909, lived at 510 Edgehill Dr. by 1895 (fig. 5.3.) His massive, rustic home, with a wrap-around porch and front porte-cochere supported by pillars of rough-cut fieldstone, overlooked Johnstown. Originally situated on a four-lot parcel, an elegant red-

³⁶Letter from Dudley T. Corning to Sears & Roebuck Co., on April 17, 1911. Westmont Borough (General 1911-12), Hagley Museum.

³⁷Westmont Borough (General 1911-12), Hagley Museum.

brick carriage house on the rear alley completes the impression of an affluent suburban estate. Price purchased the property from Cambria Iron in 1891 for \$3,506.³⁸ The house, which appears on the 1892 map of Westmont, may have been included in that amount or was built by Price soon after the sale. It is certainly the largest and most impressive of Westmont's early suburban homes, evidence of the status commanded by a general manager of the company.

One block away, at 434 Second (Bucknell) Ave., was the home of Frank Buchanan, agent for the sale of Westmont lots (fig 5.40). Buchanan, whose office was located in the Penn Traffic Building in Johnstown, was a pivotal figure in the development of Westmont. Prospective purchasers were asked to speak with him there in the morning, or visit him at the Inclined Plane in the afternoon.³⁹ Buchanan also served as street commissioner for Westmont in 1900.⁴⁰ Tax records from 1899 list him at the Bucknell Avenue address and give his position as "superintendent." His house ranked in the upper strata at \$3,350,⁴¹ but was below that of C.S. Price, who had the most expensive area home at \$4,500. As his personal residence, Buchanan chose a large brick single-family home of two-and-a-half stories; its foremost attribute was a spacious wraparound porch with graceful horseshoe arches. It faced Second Avenue and Fayette Street.

Tax-assessment records for 1899 indicate that position within the Cambria Iron Company was directly related to home ownership in Westmont.⁴² All of the five superintendents that year were homeowners. Four foremen lived in Westmont; they were a notch below in rank, and only two were homeowners. Of the fifty-five laborers residing in Westmont, few were homeowners. Some were undoubtedly in the process of paying for homes, as later deeds indicate.

Privately Built Houses

By November 1912, 228 houses had been erected in Westmont, but Cambria Steel had built just a fraction of these. The company encouraged lot sales through publicity in the local newspaper (fig. 5.15) and through mortgages to private individuals via the Westmont Land and Improvement Company (figs. 5.16 and 5.17). In 1899 homeowners included salesmen, attorneys, draughtsmen, a roll-turner, a minister, and a few clerks (figs. 5.18-5.20). A florist named

³⁸Deed Records (81:135, from Cambria Iron Co. to Charles S. Price), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

³⁹Burkert and Cooper, 3, reproduction of advertisement for the sale of Westmont lots from the July 24, 1889 issue of the Johnstown Tribune.

⁴⁰Johnstown City Directory, 1900, p. 379.

⁴¹Tax Assessment Records, Westmont Borough, October 18, 1899, Thomas P. Keedy, Esq., Assessor, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

⁴²Ibid.

Adolph Stahl was one of the largest property owners. He owned fourteen lots worth \$8,000, where he maintained extensive greenhouses.

Much of the company's investment in Westmont paid off in the form of sale of private lots to individuals who then built their own homes or rental properties (figs. 5.21-5.24). One such example is the Elmer Butler house at 152 Fayette St., built ca. 1893 (fig. 5.50). Butler paid \$800 to the Cambria Iron Company in 1892 for a lot at the corner of Fayette Street and Second (Bucknell) Avenue. The lot with Butler's name appears without a building on the 1892 map of Westmont, but a house is clearly depicted in an 1894 photograph (fig. 5.25).⁴³ The Butler house is a large single-family dwelling distinguished by bay windows on two floors capped by a tower room and an unusual front gable featuring a miniature oriel window with an oversized pediment. The house previously featured a wraparound porch. Butler's house is comparable to the type of houses that Cambria Iron was renting to middle-management employees, although he is listed in the 1893 city directory as only a mill hand. Because he could afford the corner lot and a spacious house, the city directory's identification of Butler may have been an error, and he was employed in a skilled or supervisory role.

Both private concerns and Cambria Steel employed local contractors to build Westmont homes. In 1889, the year of the great flood, there were six firms listed under "Contractors and Builders" in the city directory.⁴⁴ K.B. Kagy was cited as "Architect and Designer, Special attention to designing medium and low cost dwellings," as well as "old buildings remodeled."⁴⁵ B.F. Horner advertised "First-Class Private Residences a Specialty."⁴⁶ The massive devastation caused by the flood required a commensurate effort to rebuild the city and gave impetus to the creation of Westmont and employment to a number of builders.

Few specific builders' names can be connected with houses. The absence of original building permits prevents tracing of the house builders. One builder who is still remembered in Westmont is Otto Scharmann. He is commemorated in Scharmann Center, a two-story building that houses antique and specialty shops on Luzerne Street at Diamond Boulevard. His trademark was the ornate bevelled glass sidelights and transoms seen in many of Westmont's large, old dwellings.

Scharmann's father, Johannes, was born in 1822 in Frankfort, Germany, a carpenter and cabinetmaker who journeyed to New York in 1865. His family, who arrived later, included apprentice cabinetmaker and carpenter son, Otto. Otto

⁴³ 1894 photograph of Westmont in Art Work of Johnstown (Chicago: Gravure Illustration Co., 1905), JPL, JFM.

⁴⁴ Johnstown City Directory, 1889, p. 286.

⁴⁵ Johnstown City Directory, 1889, p.5.

⁴⁶ Johnstown City Directory, 1900, p. 3.

Scharmann worked as a laborer for Cambria Iron for a few months in 1880, then found work as a carpenter. In 1887 he worked for Smith & Lucas Company, and then for Frank Hornick. He established himself as a contractor and builder in 1888 and after the flood he had "more contracts than he could handle." In 1892 the young Scharmann erected the Belvedere, Washington and Rathskeller hotels, and by 1907 was described as "the owner of valuable real estate in Johnstown."⁴⁷ He resided in Westmont.

Evan A. Lloyd was a contractor who lived on Green Street. The firm of Wm. Lloyd and Son, Contractors and Builders, advertised "All kinds of Mill Work" in 1898.⁴⁸ The next year E. A. Lloyd & Jones, at 120 Vine St., was one of six firms listed under "Carpenters & Builders."

Stained glass and bevelled, leaded glass windows adorned many Westmont houses such as the John Schonhardt House at 600 Luzerne St. (fig. 5.26). The two-and-a-half-story residence features a wraparound porch and a Palladian window in the front gable. The house's most striking decorative elements are art glass; Art Nouveau bevelled and leaded glass enhance the entry, as well as the transom above the side bay window. Art Nouveau stained-glass windows highlight the interior in oval glazing in the entry and a rectangular window at the stair landing. One source of Johnstown's stained and art glass was William Heslop, whose firm was established in 1888.⁴⁹ Within a decade Heslop had a successful business that provided mirrors, and art glass for churches and dwellings.⁵⁰

As more houses were completed and the Incline was put into operation, Westmont seemed to be achieving its potential as a comfortable refreshing suburb. Wealthier customers visited Frank Buchanan to purchase Westmont lots. They built large, architect-designed homes like those of company executives. Walter R. Myton and Henry M. Rogers were two Johnstown architects who had a number of commissions in Westmont.

Myton (born 1872), a Huntingdon, Pa., native, attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, earning a bachelor's degree in architecture from Cornell University in 1895. He practiced architecture in Pittsburgh from 1898 to 1900, and moved to Johnstown in October 1900 to manage the branch office of Altoona architect Charles M. Robinson. He designed commercial and residential buildings in the city of Johnstown, as well as a number of Westmont

⁴⁷ Henry Wilson Storey, History of Cambria County Pennsylvania, (New York, 1907), 3:637.

⁴⁸ Catalog of George Wild, (1898), 76, JFL.

⁴⁹ Johnstown City Directory, 1889, p. 148.

⁵⁰ Catalog of George Wild, (1898), 62.

residences. He formed a partnership with former Johnstown mayor James K. Boyd from 1902-06.⁵¹

What may be Myton's earliest Westmont house is located at 131 Greene St. (fig. 5.53) The large Queen Anne-style single-family home is unusual because of a turret crowned with a curvilinear, pointed cupola. Decorative wood trim on the front porch and stained-glass windows contribute to the visual interest of the home. Designed ca. 1900 shortly after his arrival, probably for Jennie Zimmerman, the house has since been altered by partial enclosure of an L-shaped porch; the cupola and original stained glass continue to evoke its turn-of-the-century appearance, however.

The Thomas E. Reynolds House at 728 Second Ave. was a spacious house for a prosperous businessman (fig. 5.41). Designed by Myton and built in 1907 for Reynolds, treasurer of Woolf and Reynolds,⁵² the house was erected on a large scale, featuring a severe angularity that alludes to early modern architecture. It is covered with wood shingles, although it is unlike the shingle style previously popularized by Henry Hobson Richardson. Simple bracketing is the only architectural ornamentation, although the entry features a bevelled glass transom and sidelights. Located on three lots at the edge of Stackhouse Park, the dwelling's scale and setting emphasize its affluence.

Myton's most modern Westmont home is at 434 Luzerne St. (fig. 5.61), designed and built for traveling salesman E. E. Stimmel about 1910. Large and spacious, the bulk of the unadorned building sat on a one-and-a-half-lot site. Ornamentation consists of a leaded-glass front door and sidelights, and an angular pediment. There is a contrasting band of decorative brickwork below the eaves, and in general this house reflects the national influence of contemporary architect Frank Lloyd Wright.⁵³ It also illustrates that Walter Myton was a fashionable designer, who endeavored to stay abreast of modern trends.

Another prolific Westmont architect was Henry Moore Rogers who came to Johnstown from Philadelphia. The descendant of a sea captain who owned a pair of ships that sailed from Philadelphia harbor,⁵⁴ the maternal side of his family, the Moores, hailed from Boston. Rogers studied architecture in Philadelphia before moving to Johnstown in 1900 as a partner to architect George Wild. He married Elfried Krieger of Johnstown.

⁵¹Susan Policicchio, unpublished research paper on the life and works of architect Walter Myton for University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Pa., n.d.

⁵²Johnstown City Directory, 1907, p. 532.

⁵³Benjamin Policicchio, "The Architecture of Johnstown," in Johnstown: The Story of a Unique Valley, 384.

⁵⁴Interview with Phillip Newbaker, Johnstown businessman and grandson of Henry Rogers, August 10, 1988.

Rogers is responsible for much of the ambience of tree-lined Luzerne and Tioga streets. He designed more houses in that area than any other single architect. His personal residence at 418 Luzerne St. (fig. 5.60) was designed about 1906 and built about two years later when he acquired the property. The large two-and-a-half-story house was intended for two families in the hope that when his children were grown, they would continue to live in the adjacent half. His daughter still lives in half the residence, his grandson and family in the other. The spacious and airy house is wood frame with a wooden shingle exterior and sits on a double lot; inside, each half contains five bedrooms. The original deed from Cambria Steel Company specified that Rogers must build a house valued at no less than \$4,500, indicating that this was intended to be an affluent section of Westmont.⁵⁵

Another large, imposing house by Rogers at 800 Luzerne St. (fig. 5.63) was built about 1910 for Karl J. Fronheiser, treasurer of the Johnstown Millwork and Lumber Company. Large and well-illuminated with ample fenestration, it sits on a large corner lot on tree-lined Luzerne Street. A crescent-shaped driveway forms a dramatic entrance to the home, which features a rough-hewn stone first floor and a large sunporch. A gambrel roof is covered with wood shingles and a tall chimney of rough stone adds to the rustic quality of the house. More formal decoration is provided by the front entry flanked by squat Tuscan columns, surmounted by a small balcony on the second floor.

An outstanding Rogers-designed house sits at 535 Tioga St. (fig. 5.27-5.29), built in 1912 for Russel C. and Lucy Love. The house features a rustic stone first floor, wraparound porch supported by rough-hewn ashlar pillars, and a roof and large gabled dormer covered in wood shingles. Zinc-came diamond-patterned lattice glass is used in the upper sashes and in a first- and second-floor sunroom. Dramatic interior features include an unusual spiral, hardwood staircase with twisted balusters, an immense living room panelled in costly cross-grain mahogany, and a solarium. The site originally included a two-and-a-half-lot tract.

An elaborate stable on the alley accommodated horses ridden by the couple in nearby Stackhouse Park (fig. 5.30 and 5.31). The stable is similar to the main house with a stone first floor, and an upper floor covered in wood shingles. The second floor housed a couple who worked for the Love family. Crowning the stable was a large weathervane shaped into the initials "RCL."

Love was earlier satirized by a local newspaper artist as the "Candy Kid," in reference to his leadership of a Johnstown candy company.⁵⁶ He was the son of one of the Love and Sunshine Company founders, a successful wholesale grocery firm. The couple lived in luxury; Lucy had a private

⁵⁵Deed Records (216:367), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

⁵⁶Mack, E.F. et al., The Jolly Jokers of the Town of Johns and Cambria County Cut-Ups--A Collection of Caricatures (Roycrofters: East Aurora, New York: 1907).

"lady's maid" who lived in the attic, in addition to three day maids and the couple who lived above the stable. The Loves were members of the Rolling Rock Race Club in Ligonier where they socialized with the Andrew Mellon family and other socialites. They lost their fortune during the Great Depression, but the home remains a reminder of that lifestyle and the talent of its designer.

Another large stone-and-shingle residence by Rogers is located at 444 Wayne St. (fig. 5.69). The house was built for cashier William C. Krieger in 1914. It has rough stone on the exterior of the first story, and a large gambrel roof with gables covered in wood shingles; the original drawings called for shingles on the first-floor exterior, as well. Zinc-came diamond lattice windows add interest to the exterior. The house occupies a double corner lot. In the rear is a matching one-and-a-half-story garage. This house combines several elements favored by Rogers: an imposing stone first floor used as a visual anchor, a large, steep shingle roof, and diamond-pane windows.

A later example of Henry Roger's work is located at 603 Tioga St. (fig. 5.32 and 5.33). This house was built for William H. Burkhard, president of the Johnstown Liquor Company in 1918, and by 1922 secretary-treasurer of the Johnstown Savings and Loan Association. Built in 1922, it is a two-and-a-half-story stucco building with a side gable. A bay, covered entry porch, and sun porch add interest to the flat exterior. The outstanding feature is its texture: rough stucco and a layered wood-shingle roof treatment that simulates the appearance of a thatched cottage. The house embodies the picturesque romanticism of an English country cottage on an expanded scale. It also illustrates Rogers' ability to master a variety of architectural styles.

These houses do not reflect a complete overview of Rogers' range, which included the Colonial Revival. During the war years he designed school and public buildings because rationing of building materials made it impossible to produce houses that met his standard of quality. At this point he became architect for the Johnstown School Board. He lived to be 92, and remained an active designer. He designed buildings from the time of the horse and carriage into the modern era, when he was commissioned to do Johnstown's local WJAC television station building in Upper Yoder Township.

Several of Westmont's architect-designed houses, as well as more middle-range dwellings, have distinctive stables or carriage houses. These buildings are an important contribution to the architectural character of the neighborhood. Early deeds from Cambria Iron to private purchasers required that stables be built on the alley. The stables, and later garages, of Westmont were often treated as an architectural accessory to the main residence. Some affluent residents, such as the R.C. Love family, kept horses for riding in Stackhouse Park. For others, horses were less a leisure-time luxury than basic transportation. With the advent of the automobile, garages replaced stables. Often the same building merely housed a new vehicle.

Some elaborate stable/garage structures can be found in the Fayette Street area between Edgehill Drive and Bucknell Street (figs. 5.34-5.36). An

early modern home with red-tile roof has a matching garage. Almost all the houses in the Luzerne and Tioga street area have garages of varying degrees of elaboration (fig. 5.30). The proliferation of stables and garages in the "dinner" side of Westmont is indicative of the area's original middle-class affluence.

Institutional Buildings

The Westmont community was essentially a reflection of the white, Anglo-Saxon protestant composition of the company's management and executive staff. Consequently, a Presbyterian chapel served the community's religious needs during its early years. In October 1894 the First Presbyterian Church of Johnstown organized a Sunday school for Westmont children. The school was held in a vacant room over the newly constructed Kramer's store on Tioga Street. In April 1902, construction of the Westmont Presbyterian Chapel was approved. The chapel, dedicated November 30, 1902, was built on Mifflin Street.

The cornerstone of the chapel's successor--the stone church at 601 Luzerne St.-- was laid on May 9, 1926 (fig. 5.62). Reverend John Rhys Roberts of the Vine Street Church in Johnstown was named pastor of the Westmont Presbyterian Church in 1927. Architect for the large stone church was A. G. Lamont of New York City.⁵⁷ It was built by Berkebile Brothers, a Johnstown construction firm whose owners resided in Westmont. Westmont Presbyterian Church is a stylized early twentieth-century version of a medieval church. Constructed of Indiana limestone, the facade is dominated by one vast lancet window surmounting the arched portal. Six piers alternate with windows and one buttress support the exterior side walls. The focus of the area reserved for religious services is a massive Gothic arch filled by an equally massive pipe organ. The walls are plain, white plaster. Opalescent stained-glass windows illuminate and decorate the interior; large lancets feature reticulated and geometric tracery in tones of blue, green, and gold. All pews and woodwork are darkly stained oak.

As more recent immigrants and their descendants began to attain higher-ranking positions in the company and in the community in general, Westmont became more socially diversified. In the 1920s, new residents included members of the Roman Catholic and Jewish religions. Examples include Thomas S. Reilly, an engineer who purchased the house at 244 Tioga St. from the company (fig. 5.9). An Irish Catholic, a priest was appointed as executor of his estate upon his death. L. Lipman Cohen, a Johnstown businessman, purchased the Rogers-designed house at 603 Tioga St. originally built for William H. Burkhard, a bank official (figs. 5.32 and 5.33). Cohen is representative of the prosperous class of Jewish professionals who began

⁵⁷Records pertaining to the construction of the church as well as architect's drawings and purchase order numbers for materials are available at the Carnegie-Mellon University Architectural Archives, Hunt Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.

purchasing Westmont residences in the 1920s. Close to his home on Tioga Street was a Jewish community center, housed in a former residence. Westmont now has a large synagogue, which was built after 1949, and beyond the scope of this study.

Our Mother Of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church was founded on November 3, 1920 (fig. 5.68). Catholic residents of Westmont, Southmont and Upper Yoder Township previously attended St. John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown. Assistant rector of that parish, Reverend Stephen A. Ward, was assigned to the new Westmont congregation. The Telford Lewis property at 424 Tioga St. was purchased as a site for the church in February 1922. The committee representing Our Mother of Sorrows Parish consisted of Harry Meehan, Dr. C. E. Hannah, and attorney Albert Stenger.⁵⁸ The parish, established with eighty Westmont families, had grown to approximately 350 families when the grade school opened in 1946; by 1955 the congregation included 740 families.⁵⁹

Westmont also had a public school, but the building is gone. The original Westmont public school was replaced by an angular modern home on the same site at the corner of Tioga and Colgate streets. A second school building was built in the 1920s as a high school at the corner of Luzerne Street and Diamond Boulevard.

One public building from Westmont's earlier years--the Westmont Fire Company building on Dartmouth Avenue--is extant, although it has been substantially altered. The fire company itself was formed in 1893, but the two-story red brick building appears to be later. It is still owned by the Borough of Westmont, but is currently used for storage. The present fire station was incorporated into the new borough building constructed in 1987.

Westmont Today

Over the years Westmont Borough has expanded to include a much larger area than is included in the scope of this study. The historic core of the borough has retained the ambience of a quiet, tree-lined residential community. The trees along Luzerne and Tioga streets, which appeared as saplings in early photographs, are now imposing rows of elms. The neighborhood is populated by families with numerous small children. Joggers and walkers are seen on the streets during the day and early evening.

The environmental attributes touted by the Cambria Iron Company in the late-nineteenth century still exist; the air seems cleaner, and it is usually cooler on the hill in the summer. Borough restrictions against commercial enterprise are still enforced; the only businesses allowed are those incorporated into the proprietor's home. The Tioga Street Market has

⁵⁸From a Johnstown Tribune newspaper clipping in the Parish files dated February 22, 1922.

⁵⁹"Church of Our Mother of Sorrows, A Heritage," history from the parish files compiled in 1955.

become something of an institution; its appearance is virtually unchanged since being recorded in an 1894 photograph (fig. 5.37). It still functions as the corner grocery and variety store with a solid neighborhood trade. Other, more recent, commercial additions include doctors, an architect, a hair stylist and an antique shop.

The original pattern of Westmont as laid out by the Cambria Iron Company provided larger sites for the more elaborate houses. Parts of Tioga, Luzerne and Fayette streets were designated to require a certain dollar value for new homes to maintain a standard. Two-, three-, and four-lot parcels were sold as the site for a single-family house. This practice made for a more elegant landscape, although in recent years financial realities and escalation of real estate values has encouraged subdivision.

Various multi-lot sites have been divided so that now many of the larger homes sit on a double or single lot. There has been some infill, although it is sparse. The houses that retain generous sites, such as Charles Price's at 510 Edgehill Dr., or Thomas Reynold's house at 728 Bucknell St., (fig. 5.3 and 5.41), exemplify the old order. The workingman's houses on Wyoming and Lehigh streets have also had sites reduced over the years. Where once a full lot separated individual modest homes, now an infill of modern single-family construction predominates. A number of apartment houses have also been built on sites previously occupied by larger houses.

The most striking element in the changing physical character of Westmont is the conversion of large single-family residences into apartments. During World War II, the need for increased steel production created a demand for extra housing for steelworkers. Westmont Borough responded by allowing homeowners to convert attics and second stories to apartments with separate entrances for tenants.⁶⁰ Today, many of Westmont's large houses have been converted to apartments, but most owners continue to live in the home.

This diversification in the housing stock is mirrored in neighborhood demographics. Westmont has become more ethnically and professionally integrated. Although many houses are still occupied by descendants of original or early-twentieth-century owners, the Anglo-Saxon-Protestant dominance is challenged. Borough management is now a public concern rather than a subdivision of the steel company, and the days have passed when most residents were in some way connected to the Cambria Iron Company.

⁶⁰ Interview with Westmont homeowner Patricia Paolini, which was conducted during the baseline field survey of the Westmont area. Paolini resides at 444 Luzerne St. "Memorandum Report on the Current Housing Situation in Johnstown, Pennsylvania," Washington, D.C.: Federal Housing Administration, Division of Research and Statistics, November 1941. Typescript, RG 207, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) provides context for the neighborhoods. See additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Natalie Gillespie and Cheryl Powell in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Gillespie's, Powell's, and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.

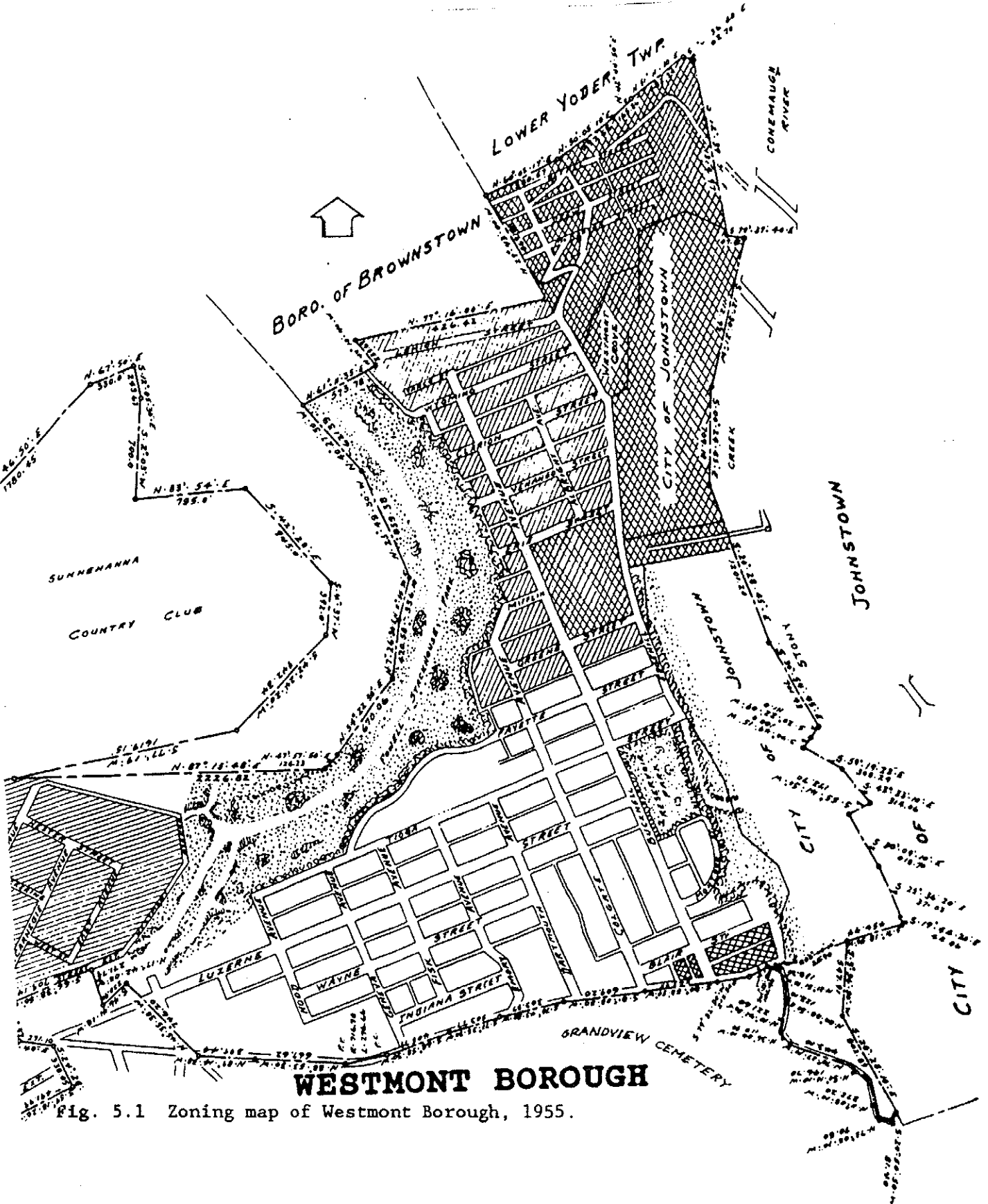


Fig. 5.2 Map of Westmont Borough, May 27, 1892.

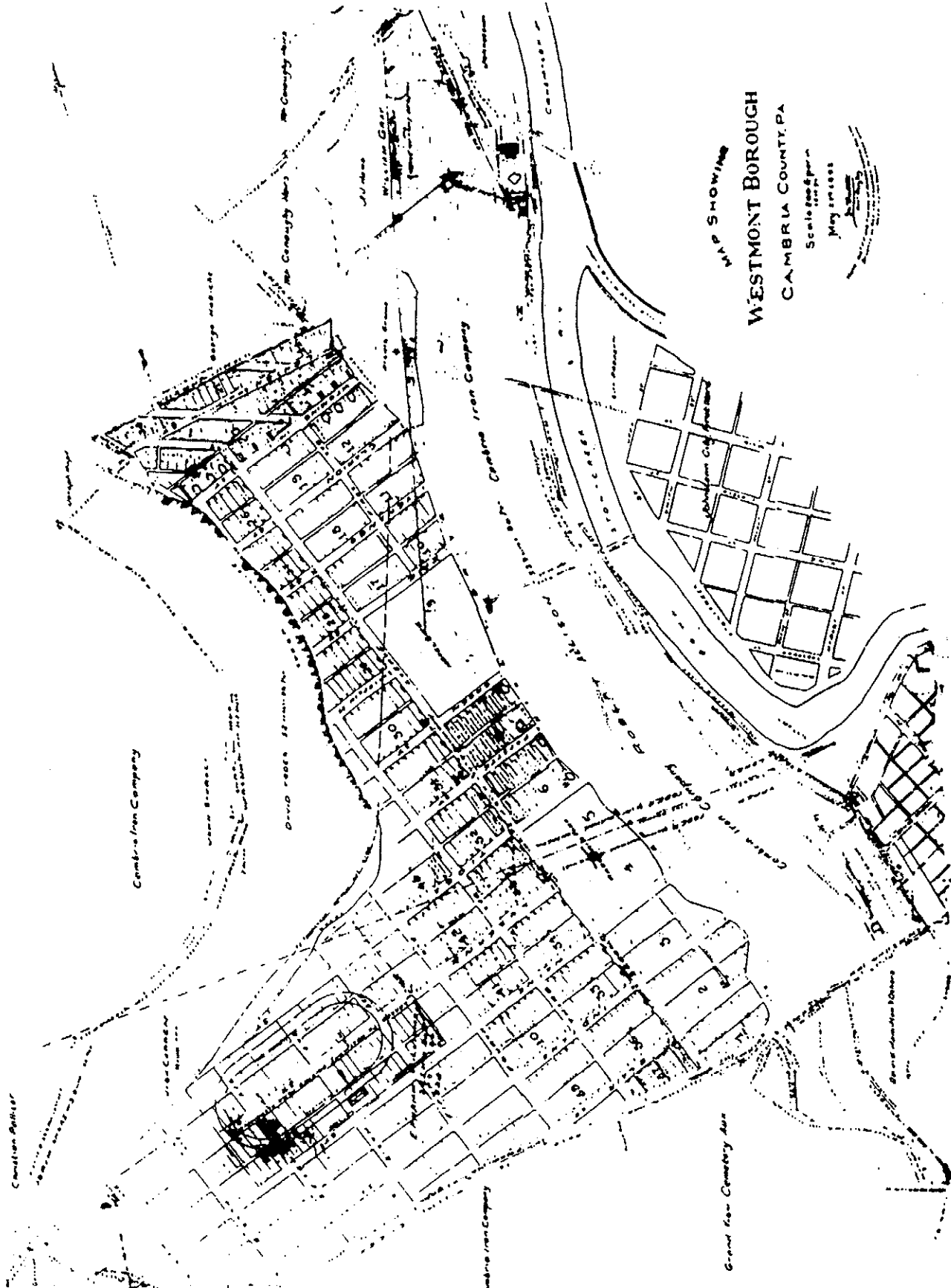


Fig. 5.3 Advertisement for a chance to win a corner lot in Westmont.
Sponsored by Charles Pribek's Shoestore, 84 Franklin St., Johnstown. From the
Johnstown Tribune, Wednesday, March 18, 1891.

Deeds and Deeds.

WE DON'T DO THINGS BY HALVES.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS:

SECOND
AVE.

150 Feet by
100 Feet
"A Corner Lot in Westmont."
VALUE, \$500.

AND
CLARION
STREET.

All Persons Purchasing to the Amount of \$25 (Twenty-five Dollars) at My Store from the 9th of March, 1891, to the 1st of April, 1892,

WILL BE ENTITLED TO A

GUESS TO THE NUMBER OF SHOT IN A GLASS BALL

Which will be exhibited in my show window about the latter part of this week. The person guessing the nearest to the number will be entitled to the Lot. On the 1st of April, 1892, the Ball will be broken and the shot counted in my show window by a disinterested party. This is a rare chance for some one to be the possessor of a Corner Lot in the pretty village of Westmont by purchasing his **FOOTWEAR** at

CHAS. PRIBEK'S,

N. 84 FRANKLIN STREET.

Look for the SIGN WITH THE FIG. 84.

WESTMONT NEIGHBORHOOD
HABS No. PA-5671 (Page 33)

Fig. 5.4 Photograph of Westmont, 1894. Tioga street in foreground, Edgehill Drive on right, Bucknell Avenue on left. Fayette Street is parallel to Tioga in the center of the photograph. Collection: Johnstown Flood Museum.

